

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments and remarks submitted herein. Claim 26 has been amended herein, and the remaining formal matters are addressed below. Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure because, according to the Examiner, since the claim numbering may change upon allowance of the application, references to the claims in the specification by claim number is not permitted.

Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to the Preliminary Amendment of July 10, 2006, in which the specification was amended to remove the paragraph at page 3, lines 6-8. In view of this previous amendment, Applicants believe this rejection to be moot.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 31, 2007 fails to comply with 37 CFR §1.97(c) because it lacked the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

Applicants respectfully submit that the fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p) is not required as the May 31, 2007 Information Disclosure Statement was filed before receipt of a first Office Action on the merits (the current Office Action mailed January 4, 2008. See CFR 1.97(b)(3). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 31, 2007.

Applicants note, however, that if fees had been due, Applicants Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 31, 2007 included the following statement: "Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06 1050." Therefore, had fees actually been due, those fees should have been applied to the indicated Deposit Account.

Claim Objections

Claim 26 is objected to because "wherein said" should read "wherein the".

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Applicants have amended claim 26 herein as indicated by the Examiner in order to expedite prosecution. It is noted, however, that the amendment to claim 26 does not change the scope of the claims, as "the" is considered to be the same as "said". See, for example, MPEP §2173.05(e). In view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe all remaining formal matters have been addressed, and respectfully request that claims 26-59 proceed to allowance. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

/March 3, 2008/

/M. Angela Parsons/

Date: _____

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